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REPORTS ON INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO
THE CONVENTION

Report of the second meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National
Communications from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 8/CP.5, requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), *inter alia*, by coordinating its meetings and compiling reports on its meetings and regional workshops for consideration by the subsidiary bodies (FCCC/CP/1999/6/Add.1).
2. The secretariat coordinated and facilitated the organization and the preparation of the report of the second meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts with the objective of considering and discussing experiences, issues and/or constraints and lessons learnt, with a view to improving the preparation of national communications.
3. The report under the cover of this note is the written version of the oral report delivered by the Chairman of the CGE, Dr. Ayite-lo Ajavon (Togo) to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its thirteenth session on the outcome of the second meeting of the Group, held in the offices of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, The Hague, the Netherlands on 9 and 10 November 2000. Eleven CGE members representing Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, six members from Annex I Parties and three members from international organizations, attended the second meeting.

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4. The SBI may wish to take note of the report and to provide further guidance to the Group on the conduct of its work in accordance with the annex to decision 8/CP.5.

**SECOND MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED
IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION**

**Report by the Chairman
Dr. Ayite-lo Ajavon (Togo)**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Scope of the report

5. This report covers the summary of the second meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) and the progress made by the CGE in the implementation of its mandate as contained in the annex to decision 8 CP.5, and the actions undertaken by the Group as outlined in annex III of document FCCC/SBI/2000/16.

B. Background

6. Delegates may recall that the CGE presented to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its twelfth session, a work plan to implement its mandate pursuant to decision 8 CP.5. In accordance with this work plan, the CGE organized its second regional workshop in Nairobi, Kenya from 15 to 18 August 2000 for the African region. The report of this workshop, which was coordinated by the Chairman, Dr. Ayite-lo Ajavon (Togo), is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.9.

7. The third workshop of the CGE was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 16 to 20 October 2000 for the Asian region. The report of this workshop, which was coordinated by Dr. Vute Wangwacharakul (Thailand), is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.10.

8. Over 100 experts from 62 non-Annex I countries participated in the three regional workshops. The workshops provided an excellent opportunity for exchanging information and experiences in the process of preparing national communications. Participants discussed methodological issues encountered in the preparation of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and abatement issues. They also discussed issues related to research and systematic observations, public awareness, education and training. In addition, cross-cutting issues such as coordination, information and networking, as well as institutional strengthening, were discussed. The discussions were focused on information provided in 29 national communications submitted as of 1 October 2000.

9. Based on the decision by the Group at its first meeting to rotate the rapporteur and chairman of its meetings among its three regions, Dr. Vute Wangwacharakul (Thailand) and Dr. Ayite-Lo Ajavon (Togo) were respectively confirmed as Rapporteur and Chairman of the second meeting.

10. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. He emphasized the importance of the work of the CGE and called for an expeditious implementation of its mandate. He also outlined the issues and progress made since the first meeting of the CGE.

11. The coordinators presented the main outcomes of the African and Asian workshops. In addition, Ms Julia Martinez (Mexico) presented the results of the Latin American and the Caribbean regional workshop.

12. To facilitate a thorough discussion of the outcomes of the three regional workshops, the UNFCCC secretariat provided a summary of the three workshop reports covering thematic areas such as GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, abatement options and financial and technical support.

13. Each member of the CGE provided a progress report on the work done so far in implementing the mandate of the Group as defined in its work plan.

14. In the discussions which followed the presentations, the Group decided to revise its work plan so that a report can be prepared in time for consideration by the SBI at its fourteenth session. The revised work plan of the Group is in annex I to this document.

II. DISCUSSIONS

15. The Group discussed a number of issues relating to the preparation of national GHG inventories, climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment, GHG abatement options, and the requirements for financial and technical support in undertaking these activities in the preparation of the national communications.

16. A number of pertinent issues relating to the preparation of national GHG inventories were discussed. The Group noted that there is a need for appropriate national mechanisms for data collection, management and archiving, development of local and regional emission factors and the improvement of activity data, as well as for building capacity for the use of the IPCC Good Practice Guidance to improve the quality of national GHG inventories and to improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emission estimates. In addition, the Group recognized that there is a need to update the UNFCCC guidelines in line with the experience of Parties and to enhance the quality of the inventories and the transparency of reporting.

17. In discussing vulnerability and adaptation assessment issues, the Group stressed that vulnerability and adaptation is considered to be a high priority issue for non-Annex I Parties and that there is an urgent need for data and capacity to use national and regional climate, impacts and socio-economic models. Furthermore, the information contained in the UNFCCC guidelines on the reporting of vulnerability and adaptation assessments is inadequate and therefore needs to be improved. Analysis of the information obtained from the regional workshops suggests that further work is required to improve the methods for vulnerability and adaptation assessment and for the integration of these assessments with economic development planning.

18. The Group discussed the issue of greenhouse gas abatement options and recognized that most Parties have assessed GHG abatement options in their national communications and have expressed the need for better methods and tools for these assessments.

19. The provision of financial and technical resources is crucial for sustaining the process of preparing and improving the quality of national communications. Hence, financial and technical support is needed to address, among others, the following issues: improvement and/or establishment of systematic observation stations to help provide information needed to support climate change studies, enhancement of training, education, public awareness, institutional strengthening, coordination and networking related to the implementation of the Convention, and the need to address methodological and other issues related to GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessments and abatement options.

20. In relation to assistance programmes for the preparation of national communications, the Group noted the important role played by the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP)¹ in supporting non-Annex I Parties to prepare their national communications. However, it is regrettable that such an important support programme is likely to be discontinued in the near future. In this context, the CGE strongly urged the continuation of the programme to support over 70 non-Annex I Parties that are at various critical stages of preparing and completing their national communications.

21. The Group requested the secretariat to compile information on activities and programmes that facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties. This information will assist the Group in the conduct of its work in accordance with paragraph 5 (d) of the annex to decision 8 CP.5.

22. The Group discussed the organization of an Inter-Regional Workshop to be held in the year 2001 to address all other outstanding issues needed to finalize the work of the CGE. Members agreed to provide analyses of information contained in national communications submitted as of 31 January 2001 and to prepare reports to be considered by participants at this workshop according to the revised work plan of the CGE as contained in annex I.

23. The Group noted the offer made by the Government of Cuba to host the Inter-Regional Workshop but agreed that time should be allowed until the end of 2000 for other non-Annex I countries to make offers to host the meeting. The workshop is scheduled for 19 to 22 March 2001.

24. With respect to the third meeting of the CGE, it was decided that in order to save resources it will be held immediately after the Inter-Regional Workshop, from 23 to 24 March 2001 and not prior to the fourteenth session of the SBI as was originally planned. During this CGE meeting, the experts will consider how the conclusions and recommendations of the Inter-Regional Workshop would be incorporated into the report to be presented to the SBI at its

¹ The NCSP is implemented jointly by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme with Global Environment Facility funding. The aims of the NCSP are to promote the quality, comprehensiveness and timeliness of initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and to ensure timely and cost-effective implementation of GEF projects on climate change enabling activities.

fourteenth session. The fourth meeting of the CGE will be held from 6 to 7 August 2001, as originally planned, at a venue yet to be decided.

25. The Group also discussed the financial report of the CGE for the year 2000, as contained in annex II of this report, and noted the significant difficulties experienced in receiving funds in a prompt manner in order to carry out its activities for the year 2000. However, the Group acknowledged the generous contributions from the governments of the United States of America (US\$ 150,000), Australia (US\$ 14,800), Finland (US\$ 13,371) and Germany through the Bonn Fund (US\$ 21,000). At the end of the three workshops, the Group's budget was in deficit to the amount of US\$ 18,552. However, the recent contribution from Switzerland of US\$ 27,778 made it possible to offset the deficit in the year 2000.

26. The estimated funds required for the implementation of the activities of the CGE for the year 2001 are US\$ 284,296. However there is a carry-over of US\$ 9,226 from contributions for the year 2000. The net amount required is therefore US\$ 275,070.

27. The CGE also noted with gratitude the contribution of US\$ 39,447 made by the NCSP that enabled 13 additional participants to attend the African regional workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. This was made possible because the regional workshop was held back-to-back with the NCSP regional exchange workshop for Eastern and Southern African countries.

28. The Group agreed that significant progress has been made by the CGE in accomplishing its mandate as contained in its terms of reference in the annex to decision 8/CP.5, and therefore urged Annex I Parties to provide adequate funding for the activities of the CGE in 2001.

Annex I**Work plan of the CGE as revised at its second meeting**

SUBGROUPS	Completion of work in accordance with the mandate contained in decision 8/CP.5 paras. 5(b), (c), (d) and (e) as appropriate
DEADLINE	12 Feb 2001
1. GHG inventories: 5(f), (g) Brazil, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Togo (coordinator), IPCC Inventory Taskforce and NCSP	- methodological issues - data acquisition, networking and database - possible guidelines - reporting
2. Vulnerability and adaptation assessment Australia, Bahamas, Ecuador, Pakistan, Netherlands, Senegal (coordinator), NCSP	- methodological issues - data acquisition, networking and database - possible guidelines - reporting
3. Abatement Egypt, Netherlands, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand (coordinator), NCSP	- methodological issues - data acquisition, networking and database - possible guidelines - reporting
4. a) Public awareness, education and training b) Research and systematic observation Australia, China, Mexico (coordinator), Fiji, Tanzania, Togo, UNITAR/CC:TRAIN	- demonstration projects (which could be replicated and disseminated) - possible amendment of SBSTA guidelines on research and systematic observation - research networks, global observing systems, global change programmes
5. Cross-cutting issues a) Networking and information Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas (coordinator), Mexico, USA, UNITAR/CC:TRAIN b) National circumstances, planning Antigua and Barbuda, Saudi Arabia (coordinator), South Africa, USA	- capacity-building - information technology - Internet facilities - capacity-building - possible guidelines - reporting (development of a template-revision of UNFCCC table I)

Annex II**Cost estimates for meetings and workshops
(Revised version after the second meeting of the CGE)**

<u>Expenditures 2000</u>	<u>in United States dollars</u>
Regional Workshop in LAC (Mexico)	60,973
Regional Workshop in Africa (Nairobi) (NCSP provided an additional estimated US\$ 39,447)	33,795
Regional Workshop in Asia (Bangkok)	40,163
First CGE Meeting, Bonn (7 funded participants)	20,746
Second CGE Meeting, The Hague (10 funded participants)	32,543
Total expenditures	188,220
<u>Income 2000</u>	
USA	150,000
Switzerland	27,778
Germany (Bonn Fund)	21,000
Australia	14,800
Finland	13,371
Total income	226,949
Less 13% administrative costs	(29,503)
Net income	197,446
Net income over expenditures	9,226
<u>Estimates 2001</u>	
Joint Regional Workshops (61 funded participants) and Third CGE Meeting, Bonn (16 funded participants)	227,296
Fourth CGE Meeting (16 funded participants)	57,000
Total	284,296
Net amount required	275,070
